

VE Day - 75 Years

The year 2020 marks 75 years since the original VE Day!

But what was VE day?

Here are some images of people celebrating the first VE Day.









Does anyone have any ideas what VE Day might be?





Second World War

Britain had been at war since September 1939. The war had caused great hardships for the entire country.



Cities, such as Coventry, London and Plymouth were badly bombed and many were killed. Buildings were destroyed and people were left homeless.



It was usually impossible for soldiers to visit home due to the war.



384,000 British soldiers were killed and many more were wounded.



Food was rationed; before the war, Britain imported lots of its food from abroad. With German submarines manning the seas, importing food was too risky.



The End

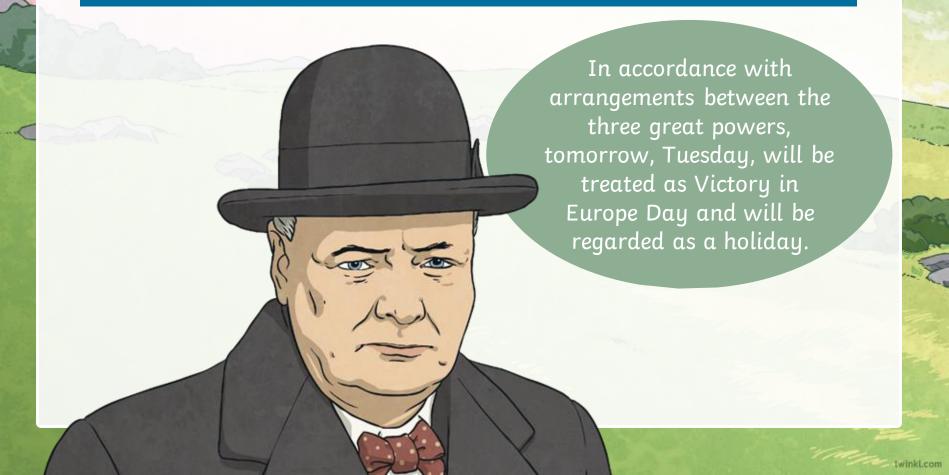
By the end of April 1945, the leader of Italy, Benito Mussolini and the leader of Germany, Adolf Hitler, were dead. Germany was in ruins.

On 7th May, at 2.41 a.m., in Reims in France, Germany surrendered. This meant that the war in Europe was over.



The News Spreads

Before long, the exciting news spread that the war in Europe was over. People ran out on the streets to celebrate and church bells were rung to spread the news.



VE Day

The following day was one of great celebration. Churchill made a speech in which he said: 'My dear friends, this is your hour. This is not victory of a party or of any class. It's a victory of the great British nation as a whole.'

Communities had street parties and churches held services of thanksgiving.



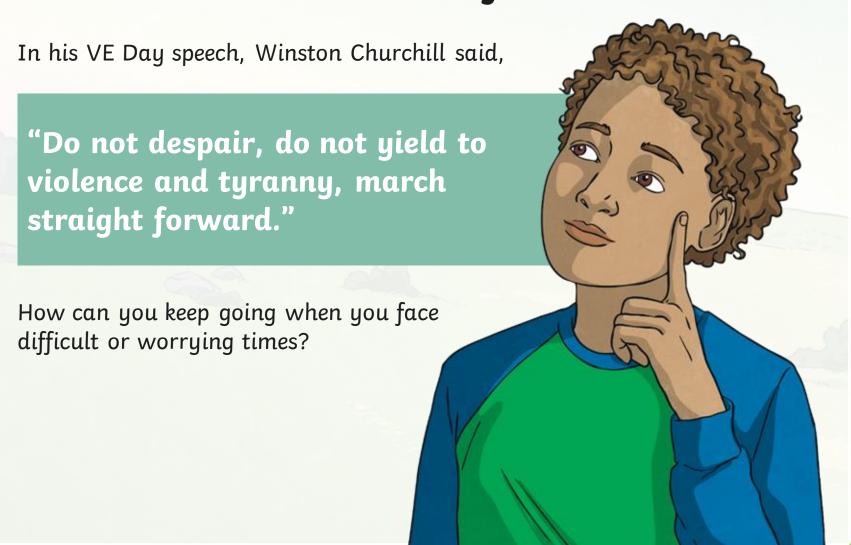


To celebrate 75 years since the original VE Day, the May Day Bank Holiday has been moved for the second time in history.

Although it's usually on a Monday, this year, the May Day Bank Holiday will be on Friday 8th May to coincide with the anniversary of VE Day.

The last time the May Day Bank Holiday was moved was also for VE Day - to celebrate its 50th Anniversary in 1995!

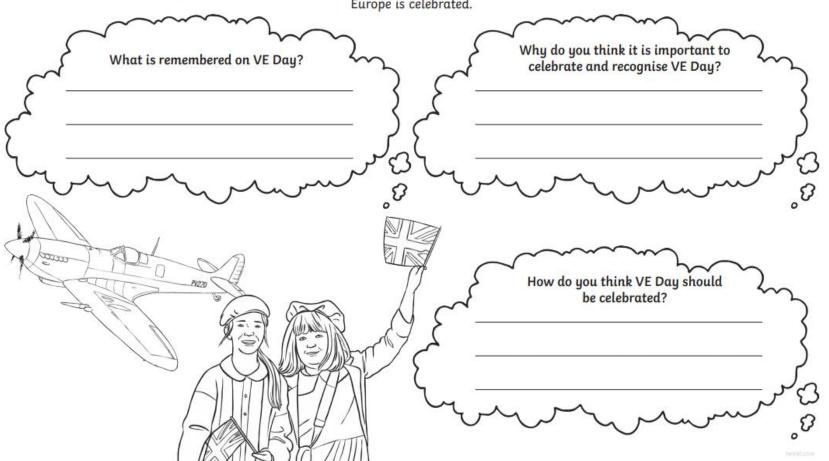




Activities

VE Day Thoughts

Victory in Europe Day – or VE Day – is remembered on 8th May. It was the day when the end of the Second World War in Europe is celebrated.

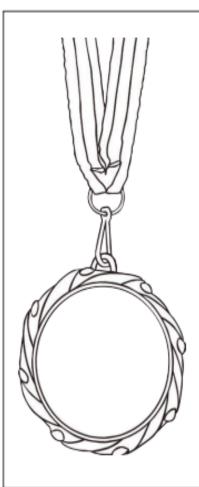


Design a VE Day Medal

This medal celebrated the end of the First World War and was given to soldiers who had fought in active theatres of the war. It was a symbol of **great pride** but its design was also highly **symbolic**.



Bronze medal, not too expensive after the war, but long lasting.



Your task is to create a medal for British soldiers who served in the Second World War that is just as symbolic and creative.

Your medal can be any shape or size but you must have considered the metal and ribbon choices.

You must include:

- The years of the war (1939-45)
- The colours of the Allies
- A symbol to signify the war and the soldier's sacrifice and victory
- A reference to the many theatres of the fighting (Europe, Africa, Asia, Air, Sea, Land)
- · Annotations to explain your choices

Rationing



During World War II all sorts of essential and non-essential foods were rationed.

To make the British weak, the Germans tried to cut off supplies of food and other goods. German submarines attacked many of the ships that brought food to Britain.

Rationing made sure that people got an equal amount of food every week. The government was worried that as food became scarcer, prices would rise and poorer people might not be able to afford to eat. There was also a danger that some people might hoard food, leaving none for others.

Activity: Try out the War time rationing recipe on the next slide.

Carrot Cookies







Carrot Cookie Recipe



(Makes 10 small cookies)

<u>Ingredients</u>

- 1tbsp margarine
- 2tbsp caster sugar
- 6tbsp self-raising flour
- · 1tsp vanilla essence
- 1tbsp water (if required)

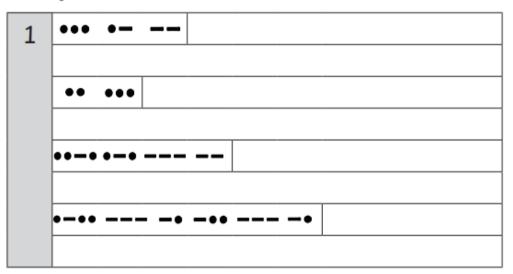
Method

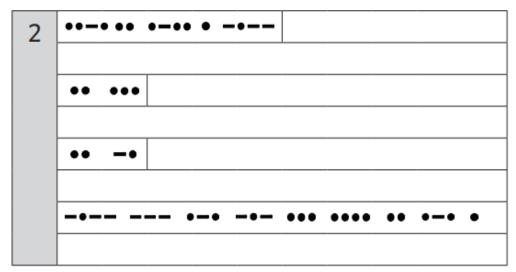
- 1. Pre-heat the oven to 200C
- Cream the margarine and sugar together with the vanilla essence
- 3. Mix in the grated carrot
- Fold in the flour adding water if it feels too dry
- Drop spoonfuls onto a greased tray and press down a little
- Sprinkle the tops of the cookies with a little extra sugar
- 7. Place in the oven for 10-15mins

Can you crack the code?

Morse Code

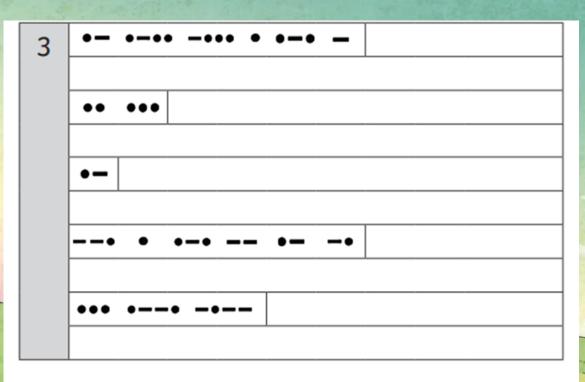
Morse code is a way to send messages without using words. The code has its own alphabet made up of short and long sounds or flashes of light. Use the Morse code alphabet to translate the messages below.







Can you crack the code?



Use the Morse code alphabet to write this sentence in code.

Y E A R S O L D

Use basic circuit equipment (including a buzzer or light bulb) to share a message with a partner. Each dot is a short sound or flick of light and each dash is a longer sound or pulse of light.

Did you crack the code?

Morse Code **Answers**

- 1. SAM IS FROM LONDON
- 2. FILEY IS IN YORKSHIRE
- 3. ALBERT IS A GERMAN SPY

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Morse Code

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